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Subject: Release: Delegate Higginbotham Invited to White House to Discuss Opportunity Zone Legislation

Dear members of the media,

Please see the following release from Delegate Josh Higginbotham, R-Putnam. A high-resolution photo of Delegate Higginbotham can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2v6G6te>

DELEGATE HIGGINBOTHAM INVITED TO WHITE HOUSE TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITY ZONE LEGISLATION

POCA, W.Va. – Delegate Josh Higginbotham, R-Putnam, today announced he has accepted an invitation from President Donald J. Trump’s administration to come to the White House this week to discuss job-creating “Opportunity Zone” legislation.

Delegate Higginbotham, Chairman of the House of Delegates Committee on Small Business and Economic Development, was the lead sponsor this year of [House Bill 2828](#), which would have provided incentives to inspire business investment in areas designated as Opportunity Zones across the state.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs will host an “Opportunity Zone Conference” Wednesday, April 17, with state, local, tribal and community leaders for briefings and discussion on recent regulatory and implementation developments, sharing best practices and highlighting successes with the program. Delegate Higginbotham has accepted a request to attend this invitation-only event.

“I am honored and humbled to accept the Trump Administration’s invitation to attend this event,” Delegate Higginbotham said. “Opportunity Zone legislation has a tremendous potential to inspire investment across our state, and I look forward to participating in this conference.”

Created under the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Opportunity Zone legislation provides tax incentives for businesses that invest in areas designed as Qualified Opportunity Zones. The U.S. Department of Treasury has certified 55 Opportunity Zones across West Virginia, with 52 of those zones classified as low-income community zones.

“This legislation could bring new businesses to some of the most economically desperate areas of our state, and I look forward to working with the Trump Administration to promote this innovative concept,” Delegate Higginbotham said.

While House Bill 2828 was passed by the Legislature, it was vetoed by Gov. Jim Justice due to technical issues with the legislation. A corrected version of the bill is expected to be passed again when the Legislature reconvenes in special session later this spring.

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